

THE FOG HORN

Issued now and then for the edification of those we know.

The Mist has interviewed some of our good citizens who are among the disappointed in the recent drawing. As can be seen, our good agriculturalists take the "fog of luck" philosophically.

M. E. Miller—Yes, I went and enjoyed the trip but found not so many good laws in the state of Washington, so concluded I had better return Oregon, where I believe my chances are better for a bigger practice.

Harry Bennett: I get a little jealous of Mule when he talks of his ranch in Montana, so I thought I would get a thousand acres also. I really thought that by going with Blakesley I would be lucky, but I can stand the disappointment, as used to them—you're next.

Charles Blakesley: I didn't expect anything; my main object was to get a line on what Washington farmers are doing and see if I was missing property high enough. On investigation, I find I am.

Walter Blakesley: I just went because Brother Charley was going, and I might add that it is the first time in my life that I didn't get all that was coming to me.

Barney Barnett: Of course I stood at as much chance as the rest of them, but a fellow has to have some sense to get away from home on a long trip like we took.

Ben Copeland: I went in the hope that I would find some place where there are no Fords. This is possible, so I came back.

Ed Ballagh: My main object in going was to find out the stage of water in the Columbia at Wenatchee. I am glad to report it is falling. Then, I was a little mad because my life strayed away so long.

Dr. J. L. Zipperer—I was merely looking for a new phone location. The other fellows get the land, I'll get the phone system all right.

A. L. Stone—Several important banking matters called me home before I really had a fair chance to get No. 1. At that, I believe I'd rather be a banker in St. Helens than a farmer in the reservation.

Mickey McDonald—I had no idea I would get anything, therefore am not disappointed. My main object in making the trip was to try out my car, and I tried her out, all right.

L. J. Van Orschover—I know I am not the only surveyor in the world, therefore I wanted to see how some of the other fellows did their work. I also realized it was a good excuse for a vacation trip. I'm back with less than I went, so what's the use discussing the matter.

Roy Copeland—Ben said he was going, so I thought I had better make the trip also, just to be sure he would get back on time. You will notice I brought him back. Yes, I dropped in a ticket while I was there but I didn't expect anything.

O. C. Wellborn—If I wanted to take a few days off, I don't know why anyone should be interested in the matter. Some of the boys were going, so I thought I would just go along to see the country.

A. W. Mueller—You are mistaken, I didn't go. I simply sent in my name. One is fortunate to be hand-some, but I'll take luck for mine. No, I do not intend to move on my land at the present time. I have some important matters coming up in November which must be looked after.

OUR WANT ADS BRING RESULTS

O. & C. LAND GRANT
OPEN TO ENTRY

2,500 Acres in Columbia County, Settlers to Pay \$2.50 Per Acre.

A portion of the farm lands of the Oregon and California land grant will be thrown open to entry and settlement by fall. The lands in the grant classed as agricultural are estimated to aggregate 1,000,000 acres approximately.

Announcement of the government's purpose to open the lands without further delay was made last week by Louis L. Sharp, chief of the field division of the United States land office, upon his return to Portland from Washington, where the action was authorized by Clay Tallman, commissioner general of these land offices.

Under Mr. Sharp's instructions he is to take the field immediately, accompanied by a staff of operatives, who will assist him in surveying and classifying the lands. The portions classed as agricultural will be opened to homestead entry by settlers, who will be allowed to file on tracts of 160 acres each, paying the government \$2.50 an acre. All lands of the grant not classed as timber reserves or mineral lands in forests will be open to settlement as agricultural lands, although it is conceded that not all of the lands to be so classed will be practically cultivable.

Mr. Sharp said his first work would be done in Jackson and Josephine counties, in southern Oregon, and that the agricultural lands in these counties would probably be opened to settlement this coming fall. Other agricultural lands will be opened as fast as classified.

The land office is proceeding in the great matter under the terms of an act passed by the present congress in execution of a decision of the United States supreme court declaring the grant terms should be enforced. By these terms the lands, which were granted by congress to the Oregon & California Railway company on condition that it construct a railway between Oregon and California, were to be sold in tracts of 160 acres each to bona fide settlers at \$2.50 an acre. The Oregon & California Company failed to carry out these terms and the Southern Pacific Company, which succeeded to its interest, refused to do so. A large portion of the lands were held unsold and other portions were sold on terms and in parcels other than those proscribed. The government brought suit to enforce the grant terms and won the case in the supreme court.

Since enactment of the executory law by congress notice has been served on federal and state officials on behalf of the railroad, that the Southern Pacific Company will refuse to abide thereby and will fight the case anew through the courts.

It has been repeatedly stated that most of the land fit for agricultural purposes has been disposed of by the railroad, so that there is some doubt as to whether the opening of the remaining lands to settlement is to greatly benefit anyone.

The question of ice for the troopers is a serious one along the Mexican border, yet we do not remember that old Zachary Taylor had any—Exchange.

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FLAX CULTURE
IN OREGON

A bulletin on the culture and manufacture of flax for both fibre and seed is just off the press, issued by the department of commercial and industrial service, school of commerce, of the University of Oregon. This is the result of a year's investigation of the industry throughout the world by the department and is a most comprehensive study of the subject, which was made at the special request of the flax committee of the Portland chamber of commerce, and in co-operation with the departments of state and commerce of the national government.

The bulletin makes very evident the superior advantages of western Oregon for both the growing and manufacturing of flax of the very highest grade, quoting authorities to show that this section is equal to the famous Courtrai district of Belgium, where the best flax known to the world has been grown. The three chief requisites—soil, water and atmospheric conditions—all are said to be possessed by Oregon in just the right combination and with just the right elements and conditions. After dealing with the naturally favorable conditions found here the bulletin recites the various experiments made by the state at Salem, the one under way at Eugene, and various private trials that have been made, and their results. It then gives a very brief resume of the requisite soil preparation, planting and harvesting methods, calling attention to the government bulletins that go into these questions exhaustively.

A very interesting and important chapter is that headed: "Costs, Production, Markets, Prices, Profits, Etc.," in which the economic features of the industry are discussed with especial reference to Oregon. In fact, throughout the viewpoint is that of the Oregon farmer and what flax growing and manufacture means or may mean to him.

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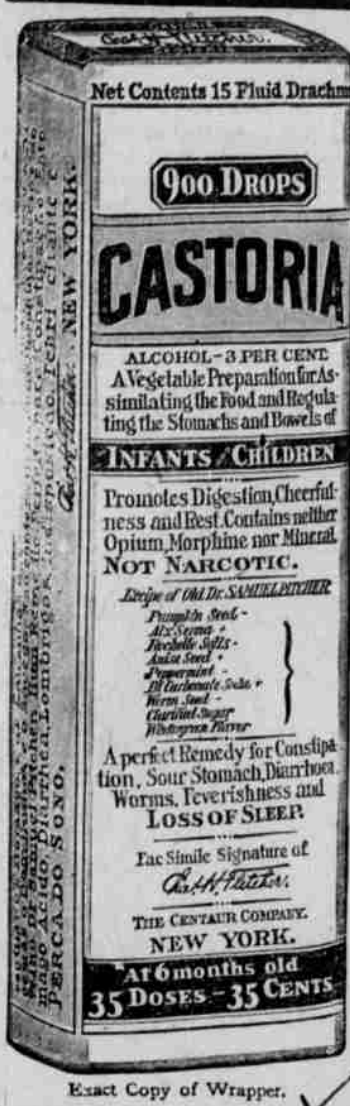
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